



STEVE COOLEY  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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18000 CLARA SHORTRIDGE FOLTZ CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER  
210 WEST TEMPLE STREET LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-3210 (213) 974-3501

May 15, 2007

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS  
FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (OES) FOR THE  
VERTICAL PROSECUTION PROGRAM (VPP) - FISCAL YEAR 2006-07  
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Authorize the District Attorney, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles, to accept grant funds from OES for the VPP in the amount of \$1,376,614 for the period of July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007. The VPP includes the Major Narcotics Vendors Prosecution (MNVP) and Elder Abuse Vertical Prosecution (EAVP) Programs. There is no required county match for this grant.
2. Authorize the District Attorney to execute the Grant Award Agreement on behalf of the County of Los Angeles.
3. Authorize the District Attorney, or his designee, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles, to serve as Project Director and to sign and approve revisions to the Grant Award Agreement that do not increase the net County cost of the Agreement.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The District Attorney's Office has been awarded grant funding from OES in the amount of \$1,376,614 for the period of July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 for the VPP. This block grant was established in the California State Budget Act of 2003-04. The Budget Act combined the five general funded Vertical Prosecution Programs administered by OES

into one Block Program with five designated components. This grant will be used to provide funding for the District Attorney's MNVP and EAVP Programs.

Board authorization is required to accept the grant award.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

This program directly supports the District Attorney's core mission to vigorously prosecute felony crime throughout the County of Los Angeles. Acceptance of the grant award supports the County's Strategic Plan Goal No. 4, Fiscal Responsibility, by securing available revenue to offset program costs.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

OES has awarded \$1,376,614 to the department for VPP. Six Deputy District Attorney (DDA) positions are assigned to the MNVP and two DDA positions are assigned to the EAVP. There is no net County cost as program costs are fully offset. Funding for this grant program was included in the department's 2006-07 budget.

If funding for this program were terminated, an evaluation would be conducted to determine whether the program would either be continued with costs being absorbed by the department, or discontinued with the reallocation of staff to vacant budgeted positions.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Los Angeles is the only area in the United States identified by the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) as a primary market for all major drugs of abuse. Receipt of State funds for vertical prosecution of major narcotic vendors has allowed the department to more effectively prosecute large-scale drug trafficking operations, conduct wiretaps and obtain lengthy prison sentences for offenders.

Los Angeles has an elderly population exceeding one million, and a growing caseload of physical and financial abuse crimes against the elderly. These vulnerable victims benefit from the enhanced services that vertical prosecution provides, allowing them to participate more effectively in the prosecution process.



The vertical prosecution programs report the following:

Fiscal Year	Number of Defendants with new cases		Number of cases accepted by Program		Number of cases completed through sentencing	
	EAVP	MNVP	EAVP	MNVP	EAVP	MNVP
2003-04	13	90	6	41	2	41
2004-05	19	91	12	51	6	51
2005-06	23	51	19	46	9	34

#### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Pursuant to the Board Motion of December 15, 1998, the District Attorney has notified the Alternate Public Defender, Probation, Public Defender, and Sheriff's Departments of this request.

The Public Defender and Sheriff departments determined that this request will have no impact on their services. The Alternate Public Defender stated that this program would continue to impact their workload, however, if the number of filings remained consistent, the impact would be managed with existing staff and resources. The Probation Department stated that if VPP prosecutions increased, the consequent impact would be an increase in referrals to pre-trial services, investigation referrals and if probation is granted, an increase in caseload sizes.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Following Board authorization to accept the grant award for this program, the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board is requested to return two (2) copies of the adopted Board Letter containing original signatures to Ms. Corina Calixto, Contracts and Grants Unit, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, 201 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1300, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any questions may be directed to Ms. Calixto at (213) 202-7653 or via e-mail at ccalixto@lacountyda.org.

Very truly yours,



STEVE COOLEY  
District Attorney

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Enclosure

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel

**Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Office**  
**Grant Management Statement for Grants Exceeding \$100,000**

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**Department:** Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

**Grant Project Title and Description**      Vertical Prosecution Program (VPP)

The Vertical Prosecution Program (VPP) was established in the California State Budget Act of FY 2003-04 and consolidated vertical prosecution programs to support intensified efforts by District Attorney Offices statewide. The VPP will seek justice through the enhanced prosecution of Major Narcotic Vendors and Elder Abuse crimes. The objective is to stem the epidemic of serious crime in Los Angeles County through multi-agency efforts that include cooperation with law enforcement, vigorous prosecution and victim assistance. The specially assigned vertical prosecutors will enhance the prosecution of these crimes and ensure that these serious cases and their vulnerable victims receive the utmost attention and effort, in order to protect the community.

**Funding Agency**  
Office of Emergency Services

**Program (Fed. Grant # /State Bill or Code #)**  
VB06040190

**Grant Acceptance Deadline**

**Total Amount of Grant Funding:** \$1,376,614

**County Match:** \$0

**Grant Period:** 2006-2007

**Begin Date:** July 1, 2006

**End Date:** June 30, 2007

**Number of Personnel Hired Under This Grant:** Full Time: MNVP 6; EAVP 2    Part Time: 0

**Obligations Imposed on the County When the Grant Expires**

Will all personnel hired for this program be informed this is a grant-funded program?    Yes ☒ No ☐

Will all personnel hired for this program be placed on temporary ("N") items?                      Yes ☒ No ☐

Is the County obligated to continue this program after the grant expires?                      Yes ☐ No ☒

If the County is not obligated to continue this program after the grant expires, the Department will:

a). Absorb the program cost without reducing other services                                      Yes ☐ No ☒

b). Identify other revenue sources    Yes ☐ No ☒  
(Describe) \_\_\_\_\_

c). Eliminate or reduce, as appropriate, positions/program costs funded by the grant.    Yes ☒ No ☐

**Impact of additional personnel on existing space:** None.

**Department Head Signature** \_\_\_\_\_



**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

4/19/07.